

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1255

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative Randy Rinks on his meritorious service as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Randy Rinks is one such distinguished public servant whose professionalism and proficiency will serve as a benchmark for future public officials; his illustrious career in the House of Representatives, which began in 1990, will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 105th General Assembly, as he has announced his retirement from this august Body; and

WHEREAS, Representative Rinks has for many years been a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of the 71st House District and his home county of Hardin, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1990, the good people of House District 71, composed of Hardin, McNairy, and part of Decatur counties, evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of Randy Rinks by electing him as their member in the House of Representatives, a position in which he has performed admirably; and

WHEREAS, during his nine terms and eighteen years in the House of Representatives (97th through 105th General Assemblies), he has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a highly respected businessman and realtor, Representative Rinks is a dynamic and aggressive participant in the legislative process and has

earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for the outstanding contributions he has made as House Majority Caucus Chairman (100th and 105th General Assemblies); and

WHEREAS, during his twelve years as House Majority Caucus Chairman, Randy Rinks has provided astute leadership in shaping policy and strategy for his party and raising funds for Democratic legislators and candidates; and

WHEREAS, he has also served astutely as a member of the House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee, the House State and Local Government Committee, the House Government Operations Committee, the House Ethics Committee, the House Rules Committee, the House Calendar and Rules Committee, the Joint TACIR Committee, and the Joint Lottery Oversight Committee and was Vice Chair of the Joint Workers' Compensation Committee; and

WHEREAS, prior to his meritorious tenure in the General Assembly, Randy Rinks honed his considerable skills in public service as a Savannah City Commissioner and as the Mayor of Savannah; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of citizenship, Representative Rinks has generously donated his time and energies to many community, civic, professional, and governmental organizations; he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Ten-Tom Development Authority, a former member of the Board of Directors of the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce, and past President of the Tennessee Building Material Association Young Executives; and

WHEREAS, since the event's inception in 1993, Randy Rinks has ably chaired the annual Wild West Shootout Golf Tournament, which is sponsored by the Rural West Tennessee Democratic Caucus to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; and

WHEREAS, under his astute guidance, the event has raised approximately \$800,000 for the children of St. Jude over the years; and

WHEREAS, truly a Renaissance man, Chairman Rinks received much deserved national recognition from St. Jude in 2006, for his long-term commitment to the fight against childhood cancer; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Randy Rinks is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Sheri, and his daughters, Dana Rinks and Mandi Gaskin; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Randy Rinks is a faithful member of the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which he has previously served as an Elder; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Rinks is a gentleman whose prolific tenure on Capitol Hill will seldom be equaled and whose retirement from the General Assembly will create a void that will not be easily filled; his considerable talents and energies will be sorely missed by the good people of House District 71; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to bid farewell to our friend and colleague, Representative Randy Rinks; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Representative Randy Rinks on his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, especially during his illustrious tenure as House Majority Caucus Chairman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of House District 71 in general and his home county of Hardin in particular.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Randy Rinks our best wishes for much success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Representative Randy Rinks as a token of our esteem.